



THE RIO NEWS  
PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet,  
the French packet of the 15th, and Royal  
Mail packet of the 16th.

Contains a summary of news and review of Brazilian affairs,  
a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the com-  
mercial report and price current of the market, a table of freight  
and charges, and all other information necessary to a correct  
judgment on Brazilian trade.

## TERMS:

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RIO DE JANEIRO, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1859

The extract from *The Nation*, of July 24th, which we insert in another place furnishes indisputable evidence that intelligent men elsewhere are keeping a close watch upon Brazilian affairs and are drawing some very unwelcome conclusions. The journal from which this article is taken has long since won a high character for the clearness and impartiality of its treatment of political questions, and its criticisms always command a respect which is not generally accorded to its more enterprising contemporaries. It can be safely asserted that its opinions upon Brazilian politics are not the result of hasty thought or biased judgment; they are given with full knowledge of the subject and with a keen appreciation of all the results sure to grow out of the political situation. This being the case, we cannot urge this opinion of Brazilian affairs too strongly upon our Brazilian readers.

On the 30th ult. the sessions of the General Assembly which would otherwise have closed on the 23d inst., were extended to the 23d in order to give time for the passage of the appropriation bills for the current year and for the passage of the government electoral reform bill. When one considers the enormous amount of private and primary work done by the Brazilian legislature, and the endless amount of political work done in the two houses, even in the appropriation bills, the additional time allowed for the passage of the appropriation and electoral reform bills will seem ridiculously brief. A continuous session until the political complexion of the Senate shall be changed through death, will be necessary, before the work will be accomplished. The only solution to these difficulties lies in a radical reform within the General Assembly itself. When it shall see fit to let schools, and emigrants, and planters, and manufacturers, and public departments, manage their own routine work, we shall have better legislation. And then when the Senate is made elective, and the religious restrictions are withdrawn, and the government keeps out of the elections, we shall see a still better work done in much less time.

AFTER A TRIAL of more than three-quarters of a century under the most favorable of auspices, it has been clearly demonstrated in the United States that one of the greatest dangers to a representative form of government lies in unrestricted special legislation. In both the national and state governments this evil has been carried to an extreme which has often brought serious difficulties upon the people. It was one of the primary causes of the civil war, it is the cause of much of the ministerial misgovernment which exists in various parts of the country; it made the Tweed ring possible; it has robbed the national treasury of vast sums of money; and it is unquestionably one of the inciting causes which is occasioning conflicts between capital and labor. With this experience before them, the members of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies will do well to make some radical modifications in its programmes. The present bill providing for the study of the sugar cane disease in Pernambuco is a good example for illustration—the more so because it bears so close a resemblance to the “internal improvements” and similar bills of the United States Congress. The Pernambuco delegates were perfectly right in their attempt to have the disease studied by a competent commission, but they made a

serious mistake in their attempt to secure canes at the same time through the public treasury. Then came the grand rush. Everybody applauded the Pernambuco measure and supported it enthusiastically. By this means the Pernambuco delegates were placed under such obligations, that when the deputies from other provinces began to ask for similar attentions and profits, they could not easily object. Rio de Janeiro wanted her coffee orchards examined; Bahia, Paraíba and other provinces wanted their cane plantations included, and Matto Grosso put in her request for a commission to study the epizootic or entozootic epidemic now prevalent in that province. Some of the Pernambuco delegation finally lost patience under this minute division of the spoils, and proclaimed against it, stating that the north was receiving unfair treatment and initiating that unless Pernambuco were allowed a more equal share in the benefits of government they might find it expedient to seek for these benefits alone. The moral of this example is very easily drawn. If the government undertakes to grant special favors to one province, it must expect to grant similar favors to the others; its purse once opened must be kept open for all hands. In the interests of economy and impartial legislation, it is best to close the door upon every species of special legislation.

The defense of the S. João d'El-Rei Mining Company in the matter of certain charges brought against it for illegally retaining some two hundred freed negroes in slavery, appeared in the *Jornal do Comercio* of the 13th instant. This defense, which is without signature and which deals with the matter generally rather than specifically, may be summed up as follows:

These same charges were published in May, 1858, and were satisfactorily answered the same month; the charges brought again the company by Deputy Joaquim Nabuco and THE RIO NEWS are made without a perfect knowledge of the facts; the accusation made [the illegal retention of about two hundred freedmen in slavery for life] are not true because the company does not possess these slaves as such; but they and their salaries prompt by their owner; the slaves belong to the Cata Branca company and are matriculated in its name. The S. João d'El-Rei company has no responsibility in the matter as it can not free slaves belonging to other parties; it treats them well; the question should be decided through regular and competent channels.

It must be confessed that this defense is totally insufficient and unsatisfactory. It does not meet one single charge made in our issue of the 5th instant. In general terms and without a single tender of proof the company denies the charges and shifts the responsibility upon other parties. We are well aware of the influence and reputation of the S. João d'El-Rei company, and we could wish for nothing better than that these grave charges might all be explained and set at rest forever. But the ugly proofs of a deliberate conspiracy on the part of a former superintendent of that company with certain parties calling themselves directors of the extinct Cata Branca company, to reduce two hundred emancipated negroes to slavery, still remain unanswered, and while these proofs remain without refutation that company must still be held morally and legally responsible. We are told that these same charges were made and answered in 1858—but how, and by whom? An unsigned article appeared in the *Gazeta do Noticias* which certain charges are made. The article did not contain the contract of 1855, which we published *in extenso*, and its charges were sufficiently vague and sensational to attract no serious attention. It was simply a rhetorical tilt against the company. The reply was something similar to the one under consideration. To this and to the assertion that we do not possess a perfect knowledge of the facts, we would say that the accusations made by Deputy Joaquim Nabuco and THE RIO NEWS are based upon the original documents themselves. There is no personal feeling involved in the matter; no question of gain. The motive—the liberation of an illegally-enslaved people—is one which appeals to one of the highest and purest sentiments of every English heart. If this charge has been made without a perfect knowledge of all the facts, then the enormity of the crime for which James Newell Gordon and the so-called directors of the extinct Cata Branca company are responsible, is greater than we knew; the facts which have been already given, fully sustain all charges thus far. The company adds further that the accusations are unfounded because it

does not possess the slaves as such but hires them from the Cata Branca company to whom they belong. This is simply begging the question. It has been shown by the affirmation of two successive superintendents of the S. João d'El-Rei company, and by the regular closing up of the affairs of the Cata Branca company, that it became extinct, and that by contact with the former company it provided for the complete emancipation of its slaves in 1859. Moreover, it has been shown that these slaves were matriculated in 1872 by the superintendent of the Morro Velho mines, as the representative of the Cata Branca company. It remains to be proved, therefore, that the Cata Branca company now has a legal existence, that it has shareholders, directors and corporate life, that it annulled its contract of 1845 and authorized the matriculation of these negroes as slaves, for life thus providing for its continued existence simply to receive their hire—a strange position for an English corporation surely!—and that the shipment executed after the death, authorizing James Newell Gordon to matriculate these slaves, was authorized and signed by legally-chosen directors. Besides that, it is desirable to know who receives the hire of these blacks. Furthermore, the company disclaims all responsibility in the matter. This can not be accepted. These blacks were matriculated by James Newell Gordon, and the company has the benefit of their labor. The company was legally authorized and solemnly bound itself in 1845 to free all minors on their reaching the age of twenty-one, but failed to do so; the children and grandchildren of these minors are even now slaves. The company bound itself in 1845 to free all these slaves at the end of fourteen years; it never did so. With full knowledge of this contract and of its obligations under English and Brazilian law, it has retained these blacks in slavery twenty years beyond the time specified for their emancipation. More than that, it has, through its superintendent and, apparently, its chairman in London, conspired with other parties to keep these blacks in slavery for life. In face of these facts the S. João d'El-Rei company can not disclaim its responsibility. Somebody is guilty of a great crime in this transaction, and the S. João d'El-Rei company must be held responsible for it until it proves its innocence before a competent English court. It is not sufficient that the settlement of this question should be left to the “regular and competent channels” at São Paulo; its adjudication must be placed in the hands of better men than those who have dawdled over it so long a time without any result. The S. João d'El-Rei company is not called upon to free the slaves of other parties; it is simply asked to free these blacks who have had no legal masters for twenty years, and whom it solemnly contracted to emancipate in 1859. It is of little avail to urge them to present good treatment—a good treatment which we are only too glad to affirm and commend—the best of treatment in the mines at Morro Velho means lingering death, as is shown by the reduction of these slaves to one-half their original number. The best of treatment can never excuse the illegal retention of these men in slavery.

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

—Owing to the occurrence of holidays and other interruptions to regular work, has been accomplished by the Senate in the interval since our last issue than usual. This written opinion presented to the Senate on the 2d inst., by Senator Silveira da Motta, in which he took exceptions to the Chamber bill and Senate substitute appropriating money for the municipal government of this city, created an animated discussion on the 4th in which the President of the Council and others took part. According to Silveira da Motta, and his charges are accompanied by documentary proofs, the municipal council of this city is guilty of gross mismanagement, possibly of criminal practices. The discussion ended in a request for information, and in steps which will probably lead to an investigation. The greater part of the time, not devoted to bureau administration has been spent in discussing the appropriations for the departments of war and agriculture. The latter bill has been quite as fruitful of political discussion as the estimates for the department of empire. At the present time the various questions growing

out of railway building and management, and the question of colonization, are receiving attention.

—The Senate committee on privileges and public works, on the 3d inst., reported favorably, with slight amendments, on two Assembly bills relating to public improvements in this city. The first relates to the removal of the Senado hill, and concedes to the company undertaking the work exemption from taxes upon the lands and upon their transfer for 30 years, the right of alienation, and the gratuitous concession of the low grounds belonging to the state which shall be covered by the removal of the hill. The second relates to the extension of the Vila Isabel avenue to Rua do Senado Ezequiel, under the conditions of exemption from certain municipal taxes for 30 years on all buildings erected on this street, exemption from tax on transfers, alienation of property, and gratuitous concession of lands of the state cut through by the street.

—In the Chamber a great variety of questions have been up for consideration. With praiseworthy determination Saldanha Marinho has kept his civil marriage and cemetery secularization bills before the Chamber. The recent occurrences in Minas Geraes, São Paulo and Maranhão affecting the marriage or burial of persons upon whom the ban of the church had fallen, were placed on record, and elicited many comments favorable to the proposed reforms, but the bills still sleep the sleep of the righteous. From present appearances it will take an earthquake to resurrect them.

The bill making appropriations for the Chinese mission has passed to its third reading, but not without a vigorous opposition from many of the most intelligent and far-sighted deputies in the Chamber. The sugar cane disease bill—which might now be appropriately termed the national infirmity bill—has also passed to its third reading, and has excited some very animated discussions. Deputy Malheiros' amendment including the Matto Grosso *epidote* has been accepted. The Pernambuco delegates are little satisfied with the turn which the matter has taken, as the benefits which their province is to derive from it are growing beautifully less every day. The discussion upon the troubles of the Italian colonists in Santa Catharina terminated in a call for information on the 11th.

—Bill 213 A, read on its passage in the Chamber on the 3d inst., promises to be a neat little nest egg for the printers and newspapers. This bill proposes to spend \$10,000 for the purpose of introducing Paraguay tea (*horseradish*) into Europe and the United States. The money will be laid out in circulars and advertisements, which are to be sent out through the various Brazilian consulates.

—The recent report of Dr. Felix da Costa, *delegado* of police, upon prostitution in the city, in which the names and practices of certain men engaged in this vile traffic were given, was made the subject of an inquiry in the Chamber on the 5th. Deputy Affonso Peixoto called attention to the report and consulted the house that all these men were foreigners. His remedy for the evil was the punishment of all these men. His inquiry was directed to the department of justice and asks what assistance the department needs from the legislature to suppress the abominable traffic.

—The GERMAN parliament voted, July 5th, a duty of forty mills on coffee and six mills on peacock feathers.

—THE CLOTH manufactory of Sedan and Elberfeld, France, are again complaining of some German ticketing their own goods as French and of giving short weight. The adoption of specific instead of ad valorem duties in Germany will, it is thought, considerably increase this *flaud*.

ON SMITH'S CREEK, Elko County, Nevada, there is a most remarkable stratum of stonite resting horizontally in a steep bluff of volcanic matter which flanks the eastern side of Smith's Creek valley. The stratum of stonite is from three to ten feet in thickness. It is easily worked and is a veritable soap stone. In fact the farmers, cattle men, and sheep herders in that region all use the natural article for washing purposes. Chemically considered this peculiar clay is a hydrated silicate of aluminum, magnesia, potash, and lime. When the stonite is first dug from the stratum it looks precisely like immense masses of mottled Castle soap, the molding element being a small percentage of iron oxide. The Virginia (Nev.) *Conservator* says that a firm in Elko have undertaken to introduce this natural soap into the market. It is similar in appearance to the Castle soap sold in large bars. Nothing is added to the mineral but a little more alkali and some sealing extracts. Its descriptive qualities are as powerful as those of any manufactured soap.—*Scientific American*.

—The supplementary appropriation bills for the minister of empire, authorizing the expenditure of \$28,580,645 for the Senate, 392,193 \$48 for the Chamber of Deputies—both including the expense of publishing their proceedings—and 28,745 \$221 for public relief and sanitary improvement, were signed by the Emperor on the 30th ult.

—The *Revista Ilustrada* of the 30th ult. preaches a pietistic sermon upon the labor question which should be thoughtfully perused by every Brazilian legislator at the present moment. The pencil which Sir Agostini of the *Revista* uses has a philosophic as well as a humorous vein; and when he sketches the protest of the domestic fowls against the proposed introduction of the Chincas, and the humiliating position of poor *Vassoura* between the black and yellow laborer, he not only gives us something to laugh at, but also something to think seriously about.

—After some months of profound deliberation in the General Assembly, of luculent laborers on the part of departmental employees, and of immemorable mentions in the *Diário Oficial*, Dina de Oliveira e Melo has been admitted to examination in a special course in the medical school of this city. It's no wonder that the appropriation bills are behind time. Apparently it has never occurred to the overburdened managers of Brazilian affairs that all these little matters of detail can best be delegated to special and responsible authorities. Had this been the state of affairs, the case above referred to would undoubtedly have been decided in a less number of days than it has taken.

—A letter has been lately received from Mr. R. C. Parsons, formerly U. S. consul at this port, in which was included the following excerpt from the *Cleveland Herald* in relation to the retirement of Mr. F. M. Cordeiro from the position of U. S. vice consul general at this port. Mr. James Monroe, who occupied the consular office during President Lincoln's administration, is still a member of the House of Representatives.

The rapid increase in the number and influence of American and English residents at Rio Janeiro is shown by the fact that an American newspaper, called *THE RIO NEWS*, is published three times a month in that city, on the arrival of the English and American steamers, and is well supported by the English-speaking people. The last number contains the news of the resignation of Francis M. Cordeiro, Esq., vice consul general of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, and the testimonial presented to him by the English and American residents of that city as a token of their confidence and respect. For twenty five years Mr. Cordeiro has been in the consulate at Rio, and during all that time he discharged his duties with absolute faithfulness. He speaks several languages fluently, and writes and speaks the English tongue with entire accuracy. He has been a faithful servant of the United States, and his retirement will cause regret to all persons having business at the Rio consulate.—*Cleveland Herald*, June 21.

—Mention was made in our last issue of the arrest of a gang of counterfeiters in New York some of whom were about to sail for Brazil with a quantity of counterfeit twenty-milreis notes of the old issue. The *New York World*, just received, contains the following particulars. About three months ago Mr. A. G. Goodall, president of the American Bank Note Co., received intelligence that an issue of fraudulent Brazilian notes was about to be made. With no other information than this and without the assistance of detectives, Mr. Goodall at once began a search for the counterfeiters. The gang was finally discovered and carefully watched. It consisted of two Cuban Spaniards, one Brazilian and two Irishmen. One of the Spaniards, Francisco Antonio Rodriguez Sandaria, claims to own a plantation in Pernambuco; the other, Segundo Lopez, is a cigar dealer in Brooklyn and was the interpreter of his party. The Brazilian, John Daniel Belchacem, claims to be a merchant, and had a large quantity of the spurious notes in his possession. The two Irishmen, P. J. Donovan and John Moriarty, were the working men of the party. Donovan, a stationer, acting as business agent and Moriarty, a lithographer, doing the printing. Belchacem had arranged to leave on the *City of Rio de Janeiro* for Brazil and was arrested at his rooms on the morning of August 5th, just before starting for the steamer. The counterfeiters were found in his possession. Sandaria was at home at the time and was also arrested. Donovan and Lopez were arrested on the wharf where they were awaiting Belchacem's arrival. Moriarty was arrested at the Fulton ferry gave the next morning. All the stones and material were captured. The case was brought before the police court on the 6th but was postponed in order to consult the statutes in regard to the case. The American law is very definite and strict in its application to the counterfeiting of U. S. notes, but in relation to foreign notes and securities it relates to the attorney or attempt to inter the counterfeiters. As Belchacem and his confederates had not attempted to make out a case against them. Their plates and printed notes, however, will be destroyed.

—THE EUROPEAN SILK CROP. The *Bulletin des Sables et des Soieries* of May 31 says: “The storm which passed over France and Italy these last few days has destroyed my hope of even a moderate crop. The growers have been compelled to sacrifice more eggs, owing to the bad quality of the leaf and the backward vegetation. The leaf has reached the fancy price of 40 and 50 francs per 100 kilos in some localities. The worms, however, continue to progress regularly, but the period of the fourth stage is greatly foreshortened. The third stage has now been arrived at in the great growing centres. Gard, Vaucluse, &c., and the fourth in the Bouches-du-Rhone, Var, &c. The decrease in the education must now of course insure a small crop, no matter how the weather turns out.”

THE SOUTH PASS of the Mississippi river now has a channel twenty-six feet deep and two hundred feet wide.

## THE RIO NEWS

The American packet *City of Rio de Janeiro* sailed from this port from New York on the 5th instant.

The General Assembly bill, No. 2,900, granting a supplementary credit of \$54,150,313 to the war department, received the Emperor's signature and became law on the 30th inst.

The Peruvian envoy, Dr. José A. de Lavalle, presented his credentials to the Emperor on the 6th inst., at which time the customary compliments between the two countries were exchanged.

According to decree No. 7,208, of May 24, 1879, permission is conceded to D. María Paula Azevedo Coutinho da Motta to explore for gold and other minerals in the municipality of Nieheroy.

The Assembly bill, No. 2,910, granting an extraordinary credit of \$400,000 for the location of lighthouses along the coast of the empire, received the Emperor's signature and became a law on the 30th.

On the 10th instant Dr. Tito de Matos retired from the position of chief of police in this city, after an occupation of that office for about a year and a half. His successor is Desembargador Eduardo Pindlalha de Matos.

The Brazilian brigantine *Ganganei*, of Rio Grande do Sul, bound from Rio Grande to Bahia, was wrecked on the Faro das rocas, off Caravelas, on the 30th ult. No lives were lost. The vessel was loaded with jerked beef and salado.

Decree 7,461, of September 6, 1879, concedes a privilege to Frederick Allen Gove for the introduction of a new telephone of his own invention, called the "chronometer telephone," into this empire. The concession is for ten years.

The provincial assembly of Rio de Janeiro opened its sessions on the 8th inst. The relator of the president was received and read, after which the assembly adjourned to the 9th because of an audience insufficient for organization.

Gradually death is making changes in the Senate which it would be impossible to realize through legislative methods. On the 8th instant, Senator Frederico de Almeida e Albuquerque, of Paraíba, died in this city, after having occupied a seat in the Senate for twenty-two years.

The receipts of sugar and cotton at Pernambuco during the month of August, as compared with the same month of previous years, are as follows:

1879 1878 1877 1876

Sugar, bags... 591 1,385 620 2,204

Cotton, bales... 996 293 4,317 7,487

Another interruption of the cable took place on the 9th, in the line between this city and Bahia. The break occurred at some point in the near neighborhood of Cape Frio. It is thought that it will take only a few days to make the necessary repairs. The cable steamer left Bahia for that purpose on the 9th.

Our neighbor, the *Gazeta do Notícias*, seems to have acquired a little white elephant in its new printing press. Its edition of the 9th did not get out until noon, and its volume very frequently showed bad stereotyping and bad press work. We have heard it mentioned that our enterprising contemporary has shown a lack of foresight in not importing a pressman with the press.

It is announced that the Instituto Fluminense de Agronomia will send to Pernambuco, on the packet of the 20th inst., one hundred boxes of choice varieties of sugar cane, to be distributed in that province. Besides this, a well-known fazendeiro of this province has offered to furnish a large quantity of the Singapore cane for distribution.

One of the employees at the Portuguese exposition, a carpenter, was a slave. The members of the commission and exhibitors voluntarily undertook to give the man his liberty, and raised among them the sum of \$1,000 for that purpose. The man is now free, thanks to their generosity and human act of our Portuguese visitors.

In response to the request of the minister of agriculture, asking that space in the Typographic Nacional and exemption of duties on exhibits be granted to a Brazilian expedition from July to October, 1880, the minister of finance replies that the request for exemption of duties will be granted, but that the space in the Typographic Nacional can not be given because of the establishment there of public offices immediately on the closing of the present exposition.

**TOTAL CLEARANCES OF COFFEE FROM RIO DURING THE TWO MONTHS FROM JULY 11 TO AUGUST 31st.**

UNITED STATES. 1879 1878 1877

    Bags 247,003 112,800 86,246

    Bales 26,363 2,092 2,205

    Bags 4,302 22,446

    Bags 3 300

    Bags 5,400 5,280 4,721

    Bags 3,300 5,124 3,200

    Bags 6,700 42,200 6,700

    Bags 7,500 5,124 5,650

    Bags 12,800 1 15,851

Total... 37,886 247,049 266,398

    Bags 15,400 15,851 15,851

    Bags 12,800 12,800 12,800

    Bags 9,000 8,000 8,000

    Bags 14,400 14,400 14,400

    Bags 9,000 9,000 9,000

    Bags 6,600 6,600 6,600

    Bags 12,800 12,800 12,800

    Bags 12,800 12,800 12,800

## COFFEE CULTURE.

Dr. Lanz Conr, Professor of Industrial Biology in the Politecnico school of Rio having been chosen by the Minister of Empire to visit the practice of São Paulo in order to there study the labor question in its bearings upon the production of coffee has submitted a report of his observation to the minister. Parts relating to the use of agricultural implements and cultural methods of farming we consider of sufficient importance to translate and reproduce here for our readers.

I am convinced that the use of the pruning knife, combined with a better planting of the coffee trees will produce not on a larger and more even crop, but will put an end to the rapid decline of the plants themselves, so that their maximum production will not be lost in ten years only, but for a much longer period.

The question for the planter is the working of manual labor easier, less onerous and expensive without diminishing production. For resolving it there is a third point which seems to me to be of prime importance in every well-informed and thinking person. I refer to the substitution of implements for plowing done by animals, for the human man is either free or slave, often inefficient, already excessively dear and pronouncing to become still dearer. This necessity for reform in agricultural labor is a recognized fact. Planters buy slaves and try to use them, but judging from what I see progress in this direction is entirely too slow and it will not keep pace with the age unless some energetic impulse is given it. The tools used, besides being extremely dear, are very imperfect and inefficient, and their use is very limited.

There are other points, apparently necessary in these questions, which seem to demand serious study and perhaps radical changes in order to avoid such heavy losses of power and useful labor, such as the direction of burros with reference to mashing of the soil; the construction of wagons, at present too clumsy and badly balanced; the manner of packing cattle, rice, etc. It would be an easy matter for planters to make this transformation of labor much more active if they were animated by proper desires. It is often due to a desire to determine the depth to which the soil can be broken haphazardly; to compare different kinds of plows and hoes; to learn the advantages in the all system of labor; in line to find out its little in the conditions of the best class of agricultural labor for Brazil. Afterwards, with these facts as bases, specialists will be able to construct agricultural implements adapted to the conditions of the country, for it appears to me that plows, hoes, etc., well enough adapted to the cultivation of the sandy or calcareous soil of North America or Europe, cannot be used without modifications in the soil of Brazil which is so clayey, hygroscopic, permeable by water, but becoming hard under the influence of the heat.

I insist upon these questions, because with them are linked the momentous problem which at present so much interests Brazil—the problem of man labor. Animals for purposes of agriculture, oxen, horses and mules are much cheaper here than in Europe, a sufficient reason for using them even with manual labor, plentiful and cheap. But it is easily shown that such labor whether free or slave is extremely high in Brazil, and in comparison with the quality is five times as high in North America or Europe. Even at ten high prices, manual labor is scarce, and lands that are scarce to day will be lacking altogether when slave labor will have disappeared. This lack can be supplied in part by the use of animals and agricultural machinery.

## FLAX CULTURE IN IRELAND.

The acreage under flax in each of the four provinces in the year 1878 was as follows: Ulster, 105,861 acres; Connacht, 1,172 acres; Munster, 365 acres; and Leinster, 807 acres; total, 111,838 acres. These figures, which are taken from a return of the Registrar General, show a decrease in the acreage under flax, compared with 1877, of 11,627 acres, or 9.4 per cent. This diminution in area was caused by a deficiency in the supply of seed. The acreage under flax in Ulster was 6.01 per cent. of the whole acreage under crop; whilst over the whole of Ireland the flax acreage was 2.15 per cent. of the acreage under crop. In 1877 the total production of flax in Ireland was 23,620 tons, whilst in 1878 it was 21,768 tons, showing a decrease of 662 tons, or 1.2 per cent. Though the decrease in the acreage was 9.4 per cent., had the whole of the seed been of an average uniform quality, the gross production in 1878 would have exceeded that of 1877. The average yield per acre in Ireland in 1878 was 31.32 stone of 14 lbs. There has been during the year a further decrease in the number of both mills. These mills come under the provisions of the Factory and Work-Shop Act of 1878, and the restrictions which it imposes will have a tendency to cause more mills to close; the probable effect will, therefore, be to diminish the production of the raw material.—*N. Y. Com. Bulletin*, June 27, 1879.

## PROVINCIAL NOTES

— Abundant rains are reported from Pará.

— The village of Uwatu, Blahey, is suffering from a virulent epidemic of small-pox.

— The export of jerked beef at the port of Rio Grande do Sul during the month of August was 1,545,220 kilogrammes.

— Advertis from Porto Alegre of the 27th ult., report the arrival of some twenty odd miners to work in the coal mines of St. Jerônimo.

— The epidemic of measles on the upper Amazon is still raging with great intensity. The death of 43 persons on *meia-cidade* is reported.

— The provincial assembly of São Paulo has been called for the 2nd of January next. The elections for provincial deputies will take place on the second Sunday in October.

— The bishop of Pará is still urging his determination to prohibit the *Nazareno* at Pará. As this question involves a conflict with the civil powers, it promises to occasion no slight degree of bitterness.

— The *Concordia*, speaking of a European botanist, Dr. José Pinguetti, now working up the results of his travels in the vicinity of Igapó, province of São Paulo, says that he has discovered ten new genera of phytologists and twenty three new species.

— On the 28th ult., there were actually four vessels anchored in the port of Maranhão, one bark, one English steamer, and two sailing vessels. The *Bávaro de Teixeira* recently fitted from Paraná arrived on the 27th ult.

— Advertis from the 17th ult. from Ueraca state that the weather there in the early part of August was extremely bad, the thermometer exceeding 77° Fahr. on the 23rd and 24th, 79° Fahr. on the 25th, 80° Fahr. on the 26th, and 81° Fahr. on the 27th.

— The bishop of Maranhão seems to be sparing no effort in his efforts to prohibit the *Nazareno* in the city. He has recently put an interdict on the concelebration of the bridal of a couple within its limits.

— Some of the disabled Italian families in Santa Catarina called for Empor from Desterro on the 27th ult., the Italian steamer *Clémentine* from Veneza, and then away. These colonists complain of a bad climate and had treatment.

— The work of laying out on the extension of the Bahia railway, in Ceará, is progressing rapidly. On the 26th ult., sixteen kilometers had been laid, and the track had reached a point within a distance of six kilometers of the Agua Verde station.

— The *Correio da Califórnia* says that some young men of the Italian colony residing in Campinas have organized a new clandestine society with the purpose of denoting the proceeds of its entertainments to the liberation of slaves. Their plans will be entirely directed to the liberation of the slave-holders of the country.

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— The *Correio da Califórnia*, printing from Fortaleza on the 2nd ult., says that the sanitary condition of that city has greatly improved.

— The weather has been cool, light rains, *chuvas de outono*, have fallen and the epidemic diseases are gradually disappearing. The *caixas* have sprung very plentifully this year, and the plentifulness of this fruit has given a great liability to the health of people.

— The *Correio da Califórnia* says that with the fall of snow in the province of Rio Grande do Sul: Notices from Olaria da Serra say that during the first days of the month no snowing to a depth of three feet fell in those regions with a quantity of snow that it covered the earth to a depth of more than seven feet, sufficient to kill the cattle with snow that then began hardly projected. It is said that the injury to the cattle and plantations is very great.

— In the *Correio da Califórnia* and *Leiada* colonies the weight of snow stopped the trees, leaving them desolate of branches. Such a fall of snow has never been known in the province before.

THE ELIZERTON TRAGEDY.

The following extracts from the statement of John H. Dearborn, formerly first mate of the bark *Elizerton* concerning the number of Captain Biscoe, will be of interest to many of our readers. The extracts are taken from the *New York Herald*, of May 16.

I joined the bark *Elizerton* in Paraná on the 24th of September last. We sailed and arrived in Africa for a cargo of coffee plants. We arrived back in Rio on the 13th of December and remained there, awaiting freight in New York, till the 10th of February, when we sailed from Rio for this port. While we were loading at Rio, Powers was engaged by the captain as second mate. Two sailors that belonged to the ship *Blankford*, on which Powers had been second mate, were working on our vessel, and when they found that Powers was engaged they left, refusing to serve under him. On the 18th, being ill, I was carried down to shore, and was at witness with Powers when a dispute arose between the man of the wheel and the captain. When the latter asked him the vessel was heading, the former gave him a wrong course. After dinner I was carried into my room, and while writing my log I heard the captain and Powers again engaged in a dispute on deck. I called for help and was carried on deck. When I got as far as the Mizzen rigging I called to it, seeing that the captain and Powers were at dispute. I said Powers strike him with a briar (a steel spike with a wooden handle, about fifteen inches in length), sinking it into his head three times. The captain had his revolver pointed at Powers, but he did not shoot. During the struggle they rolled into the saloon, and while down there the captain received the severest blow, just below the temple, the pistol remaining in the head. He lived but half past one o'clock until nine, when he

breathed his last. He never spoke after he fell. After taking him to the stateroom I took charge of the vessel and headed around for Rio. When we reached Rio I gave Powers in charge of the captain of a Brazilian war vessel, who had boarded us, seeing that we came into port "upon half mast." Powers was taken on shore by the "United States Consul," who held an investigation and examined me and the crew. He sent Powers on to New York, with three of the crew as witnesses, leaving myself and four of the crew, who were important witnesses behind. These came in this order in the bark with me.

THE ENGLISH MONEY MARKET.

The London correspondent of the *Jornal do Commercio*, in his letter of July 10th, says in regard to the money market of London:

"Our capitalists, the richest and most cautious, are to-day investing their money in United States 4 1/2 per cent. bonds (the most speculative in Hongkong gold bonds at 10 per cent. interest on these [U. S. bonds] is naturally paid in Washington, but the bonds have coupons annexed and these coupons and ready sale without any loss."

"It does not follow, however, that if gold bonds were emitted in Rio, their company would be really safe in London, because at the same time that the means of making remittances from London to New York are very easily procured, there are not the same opportunities in London of making remittances to Brazil."

## RAILROAD NOTES.

— The London correspondent of the *Jornal do Commercio* says a recent communication that Colonel Russel has succeeded in raising £164,000 in 60 days, 10,000 shares of the S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railway at a subscription price of 96 1/2, on condition that the company shall be enabled to draw the entire sum immediately. The transaction was made through the house of L. Cohen & Sons. It will be remembered that Colonel Russel, through the same house, raised £60,000 in 1875 for the same road and at the same rate of interest and interest, the transaction being effected just after the placing of the large Brazilian 5% loan. The correspondent asked: "Why then, will it not be asked, cannot other railway companies raise capital here?" Because the other lines have yet to be built, while this line is already completed and at work, and is paying at a rate which considerably reduces the guarantee. It has the probability also of augmenting this rate so as entirely to do away with the guarantee."

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